

CONGRATS TO ...

Butte author **David Abrams**, whose novel *Fobbit* (published in 2012) is in development as a new Showtime TV series. The author wrote in his blog, *The Quivering Pen*, “I could not be happier with the team of talent poised to help bring my book to the screen. Carl Beverly and Sarah Timberman are responsible for two of my favorite, must-watch series (‘Elementary’ and ‘Masters of Sex’), Marc Forster directed one of my favorite movies about the writing life (‘Stranger Than Fiction’) and Scott Buck has penned scripts for ‘Dexter’ and ‘Six Feet Under.’ Yes, as they say, ‘I’m living the dream.’” The book, which tells the story of a Press Affairs office in Iraq during the war, is fodder for a half-hour comedy. Abrams also has a short story, “The Taxidermist,” in the new anthology, *Watchlist: 32 Short Stories by Persons of Interest*, in which “some of today’s most prominent and promising fiction writers from around the globe respond to, reflect on, and mine for inspiration the surveillance culture in which we live.”



David Abrams
(Lisa Wareham Photography)



B.J. Buckley

Montana poet and writer **B.J. Buckley**, who won the 12th annual Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest sponsored by Winning Writers. Buckley’s “Insomnia: A Suite in Thirteen Hours” won the Margaret Reid Prize for a poem in a traditional style. The author was one of two selected from among 1,338 poets from around the world. “Like a tune that circles around and around in a sleepless mind, Buckley’s richly detailed poem fugues on the theme of counting – first, sheep, of course, but also syllables, fallen leaves, stars, extinct animals, hairs on

the beloved’s head, and ghosts, to name but a few,” noted judges. Her winning entry appears online at WinningWriters.com. Buckley also has three poems in the new issue of AboutPlaceJournal, *The Primal Paradox*; and her new collection, *Corvidae*, was published in 2014.

Missoula author **David Allan Cates**, author of five acclaimed novels, who won a gold medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards for his most recent book, *Tom Connor’s Gift*. Recognized by the IPBA as the year’s best fiction from the Mountain West Region, *Tom Connor’s Gift* is the story of a recently widowed doctor, stunned by grief, retreating to a cabin on Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front. She has a puppy and a stack of letters from an old lover, Tom Connor. Through the letters, we come to see the dusty, broken alleys of Central America during the war years. The two narratives taken together explore themes of life-long love, about what we can see only when we are ready to see, and how hope can grow in the darkest of places. The “IPPY” Awards, launched in 1996, were created to bring increased recognition to titles published by independent authors and publishers.

Bryce Andrews, whose *Badluck Way, A Year on the Ragged Edge of the West* (2014, Simon & Schuster) received a Reading the West Book Award from the Mountain and Plains Independent Booksellers Association. In this gripping memoir of a young man, a wolf, their parallel lives and ultimate collision, Andrews describes the year he spent on the remote, windswept Sun Ranch in southwest Montana. Since then, with the exception of a short stint in graduate school at the University of Montana, he’s made his living by raising cattle and restoring land in the remote and rural valleys of Southwest Montana. His essays and short work have been published in *High Country News*, *Big Sky Journal*, *Camas Magazine*, and *Backpacker*.

Missoula filmmaker **Colin Ruggiero**, who won a \$10,000 grand prize in the Real Montana Audience Awards Competition, hosted by the Montana Office of Tourism. Over 150 filmmakers submitted a short video up to one minute in length about living and playing in Montana; only Montana residents were eligible to compete. The top two contestants in each of five categories were then entered into the grand prize competition, which ran April 22-29. Ruggiero described his entry, “Montana,” as “a whirlwind time-lapse tour of the stunning and diverse landscapes of Montana,” featuring an original soundtrack by Matthew Marsolek of the Drum Brothers. He won the \$2,500 first prize in the Wildlife and Scenery category and then went on to win the \$10,000 grand prize in the finalist competition. To view his film, visit theaudienceawards.com/film/montana14928.



Colin Ruggiero

Red Lodge artist **Maggy Rozycki Hiltner**, whose embroidery installation “Vantage Point” is on display April 24-Aug 16 at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, Mesa, AZ. “Vantage Point” is a 288-square-foot hand-stitched work made for the museum’s Ruth Tam Lin Project Room. The seemingly idealized landscapes depicted in the installation convey a deeper story of social ills and environmental concerns. Hiltner, a native of New Jersey who earned a BFA at Syracuse University, collects the embroidered flowers, foliage, and animals that appear in her creations from antique shops, thrift stores and yard sales. Her work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions and publications such as *FiberArts*, *American Craft*, *Interview*, and *The New York Times*.



“Vantage Point” by Maggy Rozycki Hiltner

Helena artist **Karen Luckey**, who had two paintings juried into the National Oil and Acrylic Paintings Society’s Signature Artists Spring Show. “Hurry Let’s Go” and “End of the Line” were featured in the exhibit, May 16-June 20 at the Vine Gallery in Osage Beach, Mo.



“End of the Line” by Karen Luckey

Livingston watercolor artist **Paul Tunkis**, whose painting “Flyfishing O’Hairs” was juried into “Watercolor Wyoming,” the 30th annual National Exhibition, June 2-27 at the Sagebrush Community Art Center in Sheridan. “My extensive guiding of fly fishing both in and around Yellowstone National Park in Montana and Wyoming has provided rich subject matter for my watercolors,” says Tunkis, who strives to capture “the moment when the light is right, the hatch is on, and the big sky is reflected on pristine waters.”



“Raven in a Rainstorm” by Shirley Cleary

Shirley Cleary of Helena, who was juried into “Arte de Avian,” a national juried national exhibition at the Tubac Center of the Arts in Tubac, AZ. Her oil painting “Raven in a Rainstorm” depicts a raven on her van windshield during a rainstorm in Alaska. As a new winter resident of Tubac, she was also juried into the center’s December member show.

The **Chinook Winds Quintet**, the professional resident wind quintet of the Great Falls Symphony, which will travel to Los Angeles this summer to

present a recital for the International Horn Symposium. The quintet will be exploring the changing role of the horn within the classical and modern wind quintet. The group has also been invited to present at this summer’s International Double Reed Society conference in Tokyo, Japan, and – closer to home – will be filmed for an upcoming episode of the popular Montana PBS series, “11th & Grant with Eric Funk.” The Chinook Winds have been performing throughout the region since 1992, and have been praised for their excellent choice of literature, technical proficiency and artistry. The current roster includes **Elizabeth Crawford**, bassoon; **Melanie Pozdol**, oboe; **Norman Gonzales**, flute; **Mike Nelson**, horn; and new member **Christopher Mothersole**, clarinet.

Music Is Core, a partnership between the Great Falls Public School Music Department and the Great Falls Symphony, which was among the participants selected for the fifth Yale Symposium on Music in Schools, June 4-7 on the Yale campus in New Haven, CT. Dusty Molyneaux, music supervisor for Great Falls Public Schools, and Megan Karls, Great Falls Symphony’s principal second violin and a member of the Cascade Quartet, attended the symposium, which focused on partnerships between professional music organizations and public school music programs. All participants received the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award. The 2015 winners comprise 38 partnerships hailing from 19 states and the District of Columbia.

Helen Nelson, who, along with her husband, the late **Dr. Van Kirke Nelson**, was awarded with the prestigious Josephine Trigg Award by the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls. Her husband passed away at age 83 on April 18. The Josephine Trigg Award honors dedicated and outstanding contributions in preserving the memory and works of Charles M. Russell and those whose significant support has fostered the growth and success of the museum. The couple donated dozens of significant artworks and artifacts, showed a special interest in the conservation of the Russell Home and Studio, and supported the “Trails to the Future” campaign with a major gift to expand the museum in 1997. From the beginning of his life as a collector, Nelson threw his support behind the C.M. Russell Art Auction, serving as a consignor and exhibitor for the very first auction event in 1969. He joined the National Advisory Board of the C.M. Russell Museum in 2005 and the Trigg-C.M. Russell Museum Foundation Board in 2010. “The museum has benefited immeasurably from his good governance, relentless optimism and generous spirit. His legacy will be carried on,” said museum director Michael Duchemin.

Continued on next page



3

Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians, arts educators and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments, especially beyond the borders of Montana.

Send your good news to Congrats, c/o *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trail, Charlo, MT 59824; or email: writeus@livelytimes.com.

If you include a digital photo, please make sure it’s at least 200 lines per inch (lpi or dpi) and a file size of over 500kb.

Congrats compiled by Kristi Niemeyer for State of the Arts